



## Laurel Aviation & Technology Week Thrills Students!

Over 15,000 students participated in the fifth annual Laurel Aviation and Technology Week, which took place at the Laurel and Billings airports and the Laurel schools. This one of a kind event is sponsored by the City of Laurel and the Laurel Public School system. Students were wowed by aircraft like; F-16s, C-141s, KC-10s, F-14s, B-52s, B-2s, antique aircraft, general aviation and corporate aircraft, helicopters dumping buckets of water and hoisting army tanks, sky divers, spray planes and much more!

More than 100 displays were set up at Thompson Park and in the Laurel High School gymnasium, students tested their physical strengths by doing push ups and climbing walls in the military display areas. The Blue Angels flight simulator was



*South Elementary School Students invited Jeanne MacPherson to their classroom as a part of Laurel Aviation & Technology Week. V is for VICTORY!*



*Wow – what's in there!! Students received a real close up look at all of the aircraft on display..*

a big attraction with a long line of students waiting their turn. Laurel schools also hosted aviation guest speakers all week long. Jeanne MacPherson of Montana Aeronautics brought aviation history to the elementary students in a cameo role, as “Harriet Quimby” and did flight planning with the middle school students.

We congratulate the City of Laurel, Laurel School System and teacher Jack Bayne, one of the key people responsible for the start-up and the success of this outstanding program. The career information and knowledge that comes from this event will certainly impact the minds of many.

For more photos on this exciting event see page 6.

# Administrators Column



## MINIMUM AIRPORT STANDARDS -

There is currently considerable controversy over a perceived push to implement "minimum airport standards". Many are blaming the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) for this but the FAA says this is NOT necessarily true. The FAA does however encourage minimum standards but that such standards can be tailored to each individual airport, that their FAA Advisory Circular 150/5190-5 is a suggested guide for developing and implementing minimum standards for airports. It is not mandatory! Many airports have, or attempting to implement minimum standards developed by the American Association of Airport Executives (AAAE). Most of the standards set forth in these User Guides are slanted towards the large air carrier airports and are not acceptable/applicable for the smaller general aviation airports. Common sense should be up most in developing minimum standards for your airport. All users groups should be considered and involved when going through this process if minimum standards are deemed necessary. CAUTION! "ONE SIZE DOES NOT FIT ALL!"

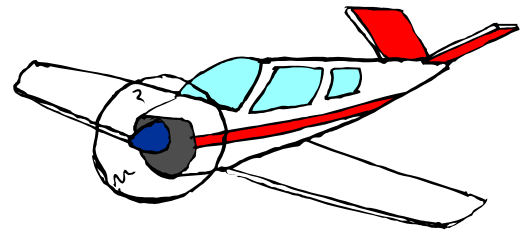
**CONDOLENCES** - It is with great regret and sadness to report that Jim Steffek, long time Montana pilot, and good friend, was involved in a fatal accident on Memorial Day after leaving the annual Benchmark work session fly-in. Jim was a strong advocate of keeping back country airstrips

open and was involved in the Montana Pilots Association's recreational airstrip activities. Jim loved flying his highly modified Piper PA-12 into the backcountry where he enjoyed fishing, hiking and camping. Jim's aviation involvement goes back many years to when he used airplanes extensively in his company business. Jim served as Chairman on the Montana Aeronautics Commission in the late 60's and early 70's. Jim's family wishes that any one desiring to send memorials, to send to the Montana Pilots Association Recreational Airstrip fund. On behalf of the Aeronautics Board, the Division, and the entire Montana aviation community, I wish to extend our sincere condolences to the Steffek family. Jim will be missed by all.

## OTHER GROUPS JOIN AIR TOUR OPERATORS IN OPPOSING NPS ACCESS RULES -

During a U.S. House hearing before the Resources Committee which was chaired by Representative James Hansen of Utah, the American Horse Council, Outward Bound USA, Americans for Responsible Recreational Access, U.S. Air Tour Association (USATA), and others testified against the National Park Service efforts to limit or ban access to public lands. Most decried actions taken by the Clinton Administration to restrict, ration, or ban access to public lands. Craig Mackey, the public policy liaison for Outward Bound USA, the organization that outfits and runs wilderness training programs for young people, complained of unilateral actions by federal agencies in sharply limiting both size and number of groups allowed in certain areas. That theme, along with criticism of federal land managers who attempt to justify their actions with questionable facts or findings not grounded in science, was repeated by several witnesses. Steve Bassett, president of USATA, said that 1.7 million visitors will be denied access to the Grand Canyon over the next decade as a result of caps enacted by Clinton Administration NPS officials on the number of air tours at GCNP. That there will be a \$25 million a year or \$250 million impact during the next decade plus forcing some air tour operators out of business. Bassett also criticized NPS for their flawed sound threshold "detectability" standards. "This is the Park Service's back-

door, underhanded, arbitrary, mischievous way to justify banning all motorized recreational vehicles - on the ground and in the air - from our national parks." Representative Hansen charged that "federal land management agencies have been engaged in the systematic closure and restriction of a number of customary uses by people wanting to enjoy our public lands. This became especially true during the Clinton Administration, as agencies, in concert with a variety of environmental groups, attempted to prohibit various types of uses and access to our national parks, along with other federal lands through rulemaking, policy interpretations, and management plan implementation." Hansen said that although federal agencies claimed the access restrictions were needed to protect natural resources, "analysis of each situation indicates that the science simply does not support such draconian measures." It is believed that Rep. Hansen will introduce legislation to address these concerns and open public lands to more diverse uses. The strong environmental lobby wants more restrictions to limit use of personal watercraft, snowmobiles and all-terrain vehicles.



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Three thousand copies of this public document were produced at an estimated cost of 39 cents each, for a total cost of \$1,170. This includes \$200 for production, \$750 for postage and \$220 for printing.



*Montana and the Sky*  
Department of Transportation  
Judy Martz, Governor  
David A. Galt, Director

Official monthly publication of the  
Aeronautics Division

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*Montana and the Sky*  
is published monthly  
in the interest of aviation in the  
State of Montana.

Third Class postage paid at  
Helena, Montana 59604

Subscription: \$5 per year

**Editor:** Patty Kautz

# Calendar

**June 9** – EAA Chapter 344 – Young Eagles Day – Helena Airport.

**June 9** – EAA Chapter 57 – Young Eagles Day – Billings Airport.

**June 17** – Annual Father's Day Poorboy Sourdough Pancake Breakfast Feed, Bass's Beacon Star Airfield, Moore, MT.

**June 20-24** - Montana Antique Air Tour - For further information call Darlene Sanders (406) 752-3591.

**June 29-30** – Fly-In and Air Show – Aerobatics by Greg Poe – Camping & Concessions. For further information call (435) 529-3492.

**June 30** – Fly-In Pancake Breakfast, Hamilton Airport, for additional information call (406) 375-5473.

**July 7** - North Central Hangar Fly-In Breakfast & Big Kids Toy Show - Big Sandy Airport.

**July 8** – Missoula Aviation Days, 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM, Missoula International Airport.

**July 11-15** – Northwest EAA Fly-In and Sport Aviation Convention, Arlington, WA.

**July 20-22** - Schafer Meadows Work Session.

**July 20-22** – Seeley Lake Fly-In.

**July 21-22** – Civil Air Patrol aviation search & rescue USAF evaluated training exercise, Lewistown Airport. All pilots and aviation enthusiasts are welcome to observe.

**July 21-22** – Big Sky Air Show – Gallatin Field, Bozeman.

**July 21-22** – Dayton Air Show, for further information - phone (216) 781-0747, fax (216) 781-7810, website – [www.airshowdayton.com](http://www.airshowdayton.com).

**July 24-30** – 2001 EAA AirVenture, Oshkosh, Wisconsin.

**August 2-5** – MAAA Fly-In, Three Forks.

**August 10-12** – FAA Family Fly-In and Flight Safety Conference, McCall, Idaho. For info call Jim Cooney (406) 449-5270.

**August 10-12** - Splash In - Fly In Stillwater Landing - For information contact Bill Montgomery (406) 881-2236 - (425)750-6100 (cell).

**September 1, 2 & 3** – Cleveland National Air Show, for further information - phone (216) 781-0747, fax (216) 781-7810, website – [www.clevelandairshow.com](http://www.clevelandairshow.com).

**September 14-16** – Mountain Search Pilot Clinic, Kalispell.

**November 8-10** – AOPA Expo 2001 – Ft. Lauderdale/Broward County Convention Center, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida.

## Pilot of the Year Award

Mike Ferguson, on behalf of the Montana Pilots Association, presented Jeff Morrison with the Montana Pilots Association's 2000 "Pilot of the Year" award. This award was in recognition of Jeff's lifetime service to Montana's aviation community. Jeff was spending the winter in the South and not able to attend the annual Montana Aviation Conference and therefore not able to receive the MPA award during the Conference Awards Banquet so Mike was asked by the MPA to make the presentation at an appropriate time. Jeff's award was presented in conjunction with the Morrison Park dedication. (See page 7).



*Pictured, left to right, Ron Mercer, Jeff Morrison and Mike Ferguson.*



# Benchmark Work Session

The annual Benchmark work session held May 26-28, attracted many hard working volunteers to assist in weed spraying, fence repairs, cutting firewood, and windsock replacement. The airstrip is located just east of the Bob Marshall Wilderness area, 30 miles west of Augusta in the Lewis and Clark National Forest. Without the success of the volunteer work sessions it would not be possible to maintain these backcountry airstrips which are just one of the few reasons flying in the great state of Montana is such an awesome experience. The weekend ended sadly with the tragic accident of stanch back country airstrip supporter and friend Jim Steffek, although Jim will be sadly missed his great attitude and love of the back country airstrips will live on, Jim was always there to lend a helping hand with maintaining these airstrips while enjoying time spent hiking, fishing and the camaraderie of good friends. A big thank you to all the volunteers, your hard work and dedication is essential in keeping these airstrips open and is very much appreciated.

*Sam Taylor of Helena digs fence holes with the assistance of David & Pam Anderson of Cut Bank.*



*Jim Steffek, Joan & Red Drennan and Celestine Duncan take a well-deserved break before returning back to work.*



*Jim Steffek, Robert Shropshire and Bill Burkland get lots of help and much needed supervision from Nick Burkland and Katie Anderson.*

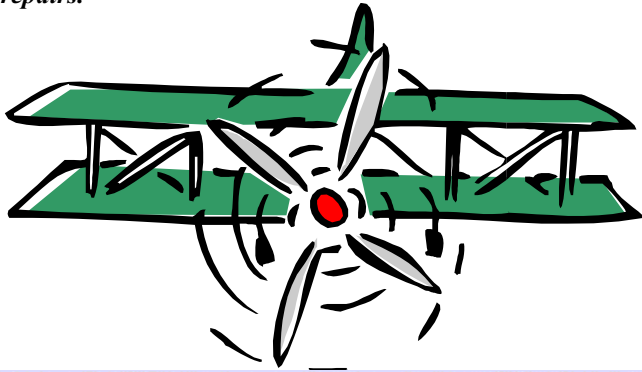


*One of the many duties taken on by Jeanne Bystrom of Helena was fence repair.*





*Dennis Lenoir and Dave Ries of Cut Bank cutting the poles for fence repairs.*



*Katie Anderson decided Mike Ferguson was in dire need of a shave and offered her valuable assistance; Mike made it out without a scratch, great job Katie!*



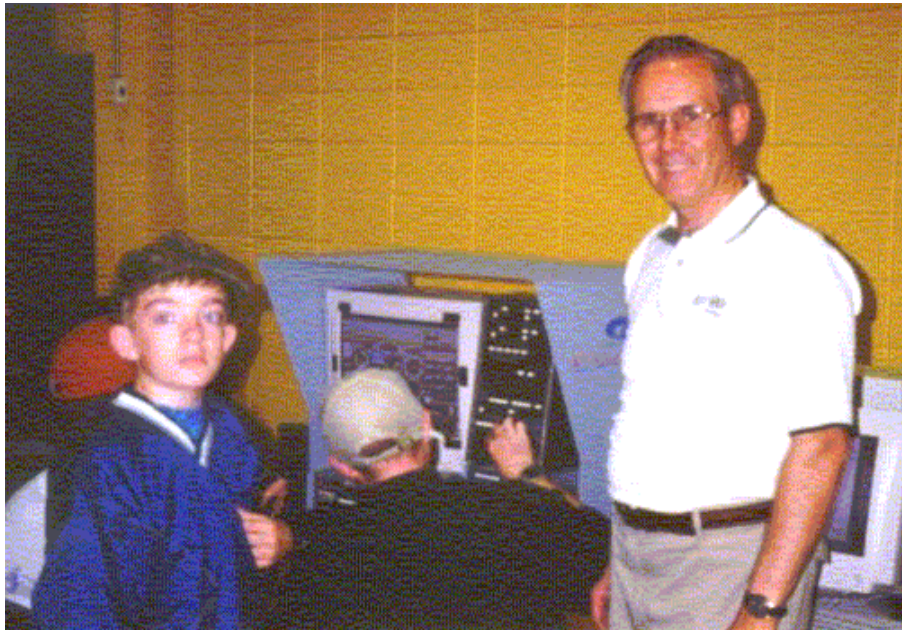
*Cary & Celestine Duncan along with Red & Joan Drennan installed a new windsock.*



*Bill Sheets sprayed weeds making the runway safer for incoming aircraft.*



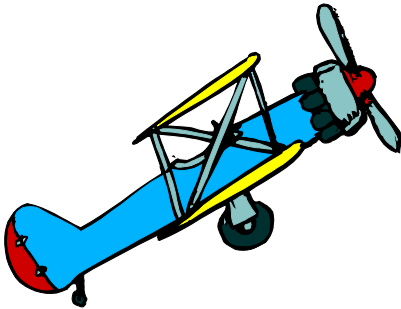
# More Laurel Aviation & Technology Week.....



*Dave Kimball, head of the Aviation Department at Rocky Mountain College demonstrates flight simulation.*



*A huge event like this would not be possible without the many people that volunteer their time – Frank Felke of Laurel is always there to lend a helping hand.*



*Students gathered at the Marine display where they could test their fitness by doing chin-ups.*



*Doug Parrott, longtime aviator shares his passion for aviation with the students.*



*Students collected autographs from the many aviators in attendance.*



# In Memory of James Steffeck

James Steffeck, age 65, of Helena, died in a plane crash at Benchmark May 28, 2001. Jim was born April 18, 1936, in Helena to Alexander J. and Marie (Ossefort) Steffeck.

Jim received his education in Helena, graduating from Cathedral High School. He continued his education attending and receiving a B.A. in English from Carroll College in 1958. He served in the U.S. Navy as an officer from 1958 to 1960.

Jim was the owner of Steffeck Equipment Company during the period of 1960 to 1976. He was also a real estate broker in California and Montana. He was appointed by the governor to the State Tax Appeals Board for a period of six years and served on the Montana Aeronautics Commission from 1969 to 1972.

Jim enjoyed his hobbies as a pilot, mountain biking, hiking and skiing. He is survived by his son, Jim Steffeck, Jr. of Oregon; daughters, Mary Posey of California, and Kate Hambright of North Carolina; sister, Ann Allen of Spokane; aunt, Ann Anderson of Arizona; and six grandchildren: Brian, Erik, Ellisha, Tyler, Christopher and Kylie.

# Seasonal Flights Resume

SkyWest Airlines, a subsidiary of SkyWest, Inc., is resuming seasonal Delta Connection service between West Yellowstone, Montana, and Salt Lake City, Utah effective June 1, 2001.

SkyWest's Delta Connection service to West Yellowstone features the Brasilia EMB-120 twin-engine aircraft. The 30-passenger aircraft features single and paired seating for passenger comfort. With cruising speeds of over 340 MPH, overhead storage compartments, and flight attendant service, the Brasilia ensures a fast, comfortable flight.

"This marks our 15<sup>th</sup> season serving West Yellowstone," commented SkyWest Vice President of Market Development, Steven Hart. "SkyWest has served more than 85,000 West Yellowstone travelers since Delta Connections flights began in 1986. We look forward to serving thousands more this season and in years to come."

SkyWest Airlines operates as Delta Connection under a marketing agreement with Delta Air Lines. As a Delta Connection carrier, the airline serves 40 cities with over 250 daily flights in the United States and Canada. SkyWest Airlines is the nation's fourth largest regional Carrier and is based in St. George, Utah.

West Yellowstone – Salt Lake City service will operate as follows:

## Salt Lake City to West Yellowstone

Depart	Arrive	Flight #	Freq
11:10 am	12:27 pm	3823	Daily
4:35 pm	5:53 pm	3825	Daily
9:55 pm	11:07 pm	3827	Daily

## West Yellowstone to Salt Lake City

Depart	Arrive	Flight #	Freq
6:40 am	7:53 am	3822	Daily
12:43 pm	1:59 pm	3824	Daily
6:10 pm	7:25 pm	3826	Daily

## FAA Testing Center

Red Eagle Aviation located at Kalispell City Airport is an authorized laser grade Federal Aviation Administration testing center for all Federal Aviation Administration exams. For further information contact Gil Johnson (406) 755-2376.

## Morrison Park Dedication



The Helena Airport Authority held the Morrison Park Dedication Ceremony in May. The ceremony recognized the Morrison family for their pioneering of General Aviation in Montana. At the time of Jeff's retirement Morrison Flying Service was the oldest FBO in Montana. Morrison Park is located on the same site that Morrison Flying Service existed for decades. Pictured above are (l-r) Tom Swindle, Jeff Morrison, Jack Burgess, Jim Cottrill, Jim Cassidy & Mitch Rygg.

# Montana Aviation Foundation

In December of 2000, a group of aviation enthusiasts and representatives of the Helena Regional Airport Authority formed the Montana Aviation Foundation (MAF), a non-profit 501-C organization. The MAF's primary purpose, as identified in the foundations mission statement, is to collect, preserve, and display aviation memorabilia for the education of the public related to aviation history, and to assist in the development of rural and backcountry airstrips and other similar projects. The MAF is currently developing plans for several historical aviation displays that will be incorporated into the passenger terminal remodeling project that is being considered by the Helena Regional Airport Authority.

Recently, R. W. "Rich" McKamy donated a 1952 museum quality restored Dehavilland (DHC-1T10) Chipmunk aircraft to the Montana Aviation Foundation. This aircraft was purchased originally by the British Royal Navy, and was used as a trainer for many years before being acquired by R. W. McKamy. The aircraft is powered by a Gipsy Major four-cylinder,

in-line, inverted air-cooled engine that produces 145 horsepower at 2550 rpms. It has a top speed of 120 knots and a stall speed of 38 knots. The very generous donation of this aircraft, by Mr. McKamey, is the first aircraft to be added to the MAF's collection.

Joe Roberts, President of the MAF, accepted the donation of the aircraft at the Helena Regional Airport where the aircraft is currently hangared. The MAF is cur-

rently discussing donations of other aircraft and memorabilia with several Montana aviators. Other founding members of the Montana Aviation Foundation are Mike Ferguson, Fred Flanders, and Ron Mercer. The MAF can be contacted by writing to the Montana Aviation Foundation, 2850 Skyway Drive, Helena, Montana 59602 or by calling 406-442-2821.



## June 2001

<b>Pre-Sort Standard</b> <b>US Postage Paid</b> <b>Helena, MT 59620</b> <b>Permit No. 141</b>
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